

On consideration, indeed, as Captain Gould insisted, it was hardly to be supposed that Rock Castle could have been surprised by attacking natives, for they could not have brought their canoes by night to land which they did not know. It must have been by daylight that they arrived^ and some of the islanders must surely have seen them far enough off to have had time to take refuge in some other part of the island.

"And then again," Fritz added, "if these natives landed only recently, our people may not have been at Rock Castle at all. This is the season when we usually visit all the farms. Although we did not meet them at the hermitage at Eberfurt last night, they may be at Wood Grange, or Prospect^ Hill, or at Sugar-cane Grove, in the midst of<sup>1</sup> those thick woods,"

"Let us go to Sugar-cane Grove first," Frank suggested\*

"We can do that," John Block assented; "but not before night."

"Yes, now, at once, at once!" Frank insisted, declining to Hsten to argument. "I can go alone. About twelve miles there, and twelve

miles back; I shall be back in four  
hours, and  
we shall know what we are about,"

" No, Frank, no !" said Fritz. " I do  
beg you not  
to leave us. It would be most foolish.  
If need be,  
I order you not to, and I am your elder  
brother ? \*